

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CLYDE ELLIS,

Petitioner,

v.

THE PEOPLE,

Respondents.

Case No.: 16CV688 BEN (BGS)

**ORDER DISMISSING CASE
WITHOUT PREJUDICE AND WITH
LEAVE TO AMEND**

Petitioner, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, has filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

FAILURE TO SATISFY FILING FEE REQUIREMENT

Petitioner has failed to either pay the \$5.00 filing fee or move to proceed in forma pauperis. This Court cannot proceed until Petitioner has either paid the \$5.00 filing fee or qualified to proceed in forma pauperis. *See Rule 3(a), 28 U.S.C. foll. § 2254.*

FAILURE TO NAME PROPER RESPONDENT

Review of the Petition reveals that Petitioner has failed to name a proper respondent. On federal habeas, a state prisoner must name the state officer having custody of him as the respondent. *Ortiz-Sandoval v. Gomez*, 81 F.3d 891, 894 (9th Cir. 1996) (citing Rule 2(a), 28 U.S.C. foll. § 2254). Federal courts lack personal jurisdiction when a habeas petition fails to name a proper respondent. *See id.*

1 The warden is the typical respondent. However, “the rules following section 2254
 2 do not specify the warden.” *Id.* “[T]he ‘state officer having custody’ may be ‘either the
 3 warden of the institution in which the petitioner is incarcerated . . . or the chief officer in
 4 charge of state penal institutions.’” *Id.* (quoting Rule 2(a), 28 U.S.C. foll. § 2254
 5 advisory committee’s note). If “a petitioner is in custody due to the state action he is
 6 challenging, ‘[t]he named respondent shall be the state officer who has official custody of
 7 the petitioner (for example, the warden of the prison).’” *Id.* (quoting Rule 2, 28 U.S.C.
 8 foll. § 2254 advisory committee’s note).

9 A long standing rule in the Ninth Circuit holds “that a petitioner may not seek [a
 10 writ of] habeas corpus against the State under . . . [whose] authority . . . the petitioner is
 11 in custody. The actual person who is [the] custodian [of the petitioner] must be the
 12 respondent.” *Ashley v. Washington*, 394 F.2d 125, 126 (9th Cir. 1968). This requirement
 13 exists because a writ of habeas corpus acts upon the custodian of the state prisoner, the
 14 person who will produce “the body” if directed to do so by the Court. “Both the warden
 15 of a California prison and the Director of Corrections for California have the power to
 16 produce the prisoner.” *Ortiz-Sandoval*, 81 F.3d at 895.

17 Here, Petitioner has incorrectly named “The People,” as Respondent. In order for
 18 this Court to entertain the Petition filed in this action, Petitioner must name the warden in
 19 charge of the state correctional facility in which Petitioner is presently confined or the
 20 Director of the California Department of Corrections. *Brittingham v. United States*, 982
 21 F.2d 378, 379 (9th Cir. 1992) (per curiam).

FAILURE TO ALLEGE EXHAUSTION OF STATE JUDICIAL REMEDIES

23 Further, habeas petitioners who wish to challenge either their state court conviction
 24 or the length of their confinement in state prison, must first exhaust state judicial
 25 remedies. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b), (c); *Granberry v. Greer*, 481 U.S. 129, 133-34 (1987).
 26 Ordinarily, to satisfy the exhaustion requirement, a petitioner must “‘fairly present[]’ his
 27 federal claim to the highest state court with jurisdiction to consider it, or . . .
 28 demonstrate[] that no state remedy remains available.” *Johnson v. Zenon*, 88 F.3d 828,

1 829 (9th Cir. 1996) (citations omitted). Moreover, to properly exhaust state court
 2 remedies a petitioner must allege, in state court, how one or more of his or her federal
 3 rights have been violated. For example, “[i]f a habeas petitioner wishes to claim that an
 4 evidentiary ruling at a state court trial denied him [or her] the due process of law
 5 guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment, he [or she] must say so, not only in federal
 6 court, but in state court.” *See Duncan v. Henry*, 513 U.S. 364, 365-66 (1995)(emphasis
 7 added).

8 Nowhere on the Petition does Petitioner allege that he raised his claims in the
 9 California Supreme Court. If Petitioner has raised his claims in the California Supreme
 10 Court he must so specify.

11 Further, the Court cautions Petitioner that under the Antiterrorism and Effective
 12 Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA) a one-year period of limitation applies to a petition
 13 for a writ of habeas corpus by a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State
 14 court. The limitation period runs from the latest of:

15 (A) the date on which the judgment became final by the conclusion of
 16 direct review or the expiration of the time for seeking such review;

17 (B) the date on which the impediment to filing an application created by
 18 State action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is
 19 removed, if the applicant was prevented from filing by such State action;

20 (C) the date on which the constitutional right asserted was initially
 21 recognized by the Supreme Court, if the right has been newly recognized
 22 by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on
 23 collateral review; or

24 (D) the date on which the factual predicate of the claim or claims
 25 presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due
 26 diligence.

27 28 U.S.C.A. § 2244(d)(1)(A)-(D) (West Supp. 2002).

28 The statute of limitations does not run while a properly filed state habeas corpus
 29 petition is pending. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(2); *see Nino v. Galaza*, 183 F.3d 1003, 1006

1 (9th Cir. 1999); *but see Artuz v. Bennett*, 531 U.S. 4, 8 (2000) (holding that “an
2 application is ‘properly filed’ when its delivery and acceptance [by the appropriate court
3 officer for placement into the record] are in compliance with the applicable laws and
4 rules governing filings.”). However, absent some other basis for tolling, the statute of
5 limitations does run while a federal habeas petition is pending. *Duncan v. Walker*, 533
6 U.S. 167, 181-82 (2001).

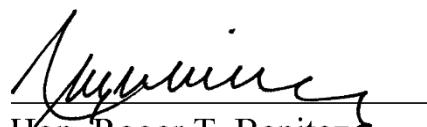
7 Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases provides for summary dismissal
8 of a habeas petition “[i]f it plainly appears from the face of the petition and any exhibits
9 annexed to it that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court . . .” Rule 4, 28
10 U.S.C. foll. § 2254. Here, it appears plain from the Petition that Petitioner is not
11 presently entitled to federal habeas relief because he has not alleged exhaustion of state
12 court remedies.

13 **CONCLUSION**

14 For the foregoing reasons, the Court **DISMISSES** this case without prejudice and
15 with leave to amend. If Petitioner wishes to proceed with this case, he must, **no later**
16 **than May 30, 2016:** (1) pay the \$5.00 filing fee **OR** submit adequate proof of his
17 inability to pay the fee; **AND** (2) file a First Amended Petition that cures the pleading
18 deficiencies outlined in this Order. ***The Clerk of Court shall send a blank Motion to***
19 ***Proceed in Forma Pauperis Application and a blank First Amended Petition form to***
20 ***Petitioner along with a copy of this Order.***

21 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

22 Dated: March 30, 2016

23 
24 Hon. Roger T. Benitez
25 United States District Judge
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